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EDITORIAL

There is some indication that the popular movement to "socialize" classroom work may go far afield for lack of a compass. Like "supervised study" socialization appears to be regarded as primarily a matter of machinery. Lengthen periods, say the wiseacres, and all good things will follow. Let a pupil take the chair, and, presto, the recitation is "socialized."

**What Is
Socialization?**

As one of the more penetrating remarked recently, putting a pupil in the chair often results merely in replacing a good teacher with a poor one. What is needed is not complete abnegation on the part of the teacher, but a new and wiser conception of his many-sided functions. If he knows only how to examine, then indeed any change is welcome; but if he knows also how to lead, to preside, to coach, to advise, to direct, to chide, to encourage, to give information, to settle moot questions, to connect all school activity with other aspects of life and experience, etc., he will play the many-sided rôle needed to transform an intellectual court of justice into an epitome of typical group life.

What counts is the point of view. Any group is "socialized" if the members of it have a good understanding of the common purposes, are imbued with the desire to co-operate in the accomplishment of those purposes, and have effected a suitable organization for doing so. At present it is doubtless true that too few teachers are consciously striving for socialization in this sense. Very, very often the teacher alone has a definite, unifying purpose for the term's work; the pupils merely obey more or less blindly and can hardly be said to be organized at all.

There is much promise in the so-called project method, both in composition and in literature, for the reason that that is the method of all purposeful life and experience. It emphasizes not externals but the informing spirit. True, much readjustment of relationships grows out of it, but these are not usually formal or mechanical. Complete participation by all is its distinctive mark. Once this participation is secured, no one cares whether the organization which provides for it is old or new. Generally the organization will be both old and new.